providing a chewing gum consisting of ingredients selected from the group consisting of elastomers, resins, fats, oils, softeners, fillers, waxes, colorants, antioxidants, plasticizers, texturizers, emulsifiers, whiteners, acidulants, bulking agents, essential oils, sweeteners, flavors, and at least one agent that is typically swallowed by an individual to achieve a specific effect, the ingredients and agent being uniformly distributed throughout the chewing gum, the chewing gum including less than the typical amount of agent that is swallowed by the individual to achieve the effect;

chewing the chewing gum and thereby causing the agent to be released into the salvia of the individual; and

continuing to chew the chewing gum forcing the agent through an oral mucosa contained in a buccal cavity of the individual.

19. A method of delivering a medicament comprising the steps of:

providing a chewing gum consisting of ingredients selected from the group consisting of elastomers, resins, fats, oils, softeners, fillers, waxes, colorants, antioxidants, plasticizers, texturizers, emulsifiers, whiteners, acidulants, bulking agents, essential oils, sweeteners, flavors, and at least one medicament, the ingredients and medicament being uniformly distributed throughout the chewing gum; and

chewing the chewing gum for at least 2 minutes in a buccal cavity of an individual chewing the chewing gum.

## REMARKS

This Amendment After Final is entered in response to the Office Action mailed on March 22, 2002. The Office Action once again rejects Claims 1-12 and 19-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103. In response, Claims 1, 7, and 19 have been amended. Applicants respectfully request that the Amendment be entered as it does not require the Patent Office to conduct an additional search. Further, the Amendment does not add new matter. For example, the Patent Office's attention is directed to page 14, beginning at line 5.

Claims 1-12 and 19-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,922,347 (*Hausler*). Applicants do not believe this rejection is proper. However, in the spirit of cooperation, Applicants have amended the claims so that they clearly

distinguish over *Hausler*. In this regard, each of the claims requires that the chewing gum ingredients and medicaments have a uniform distribution throughout the chewing gum. This is specifically taught away from by *Hausler*.

In this regard, either *Hausler* requires that the medicament and buffer are coated with a thin film, teaching away from the Markush group that Applicants have set forth with respect to the chewing gum ingredients, or that the medicament and buffer are segregated in the chewing gum matrix, or both. *Hausler* clearly teaches away from the claimed invention.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection based on *Hausler* be withdrawn and the above-identified patent application and passed to allowance.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of their patent application and earnestly solicit an early allowance of same.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Versions with Markings to Show Changes Made**."

Respectfully submitted,

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## VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

**In the Claims:**

Please amend Claims 1, 7, and 19 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for delivering a medicament to an individual comprising the steps of:

providing a chewing gum consisting of ingredients selected from the group consisting of elastomers, resins, fats, oils, softeners, fillers, waxes, colorants, antioxidants, plasticizers, texturizers, emulsifiers, whiteners, acidulants, bulking agents, essential oils, sweeteners, and flavors, and at least one medicament, the ingredients and medicament having a uniform distribution throughout the gum;

chewing the chewing gum to cause the medicament to be released from the chewing gum composition into the buccal cavity of the individual; and

continuing to chew the chewing gum thereby creating a fluid pressure causing the medicament to enter the systemic system of the individual through an oral mucosa of the individual.

7. (Amended) A method for reducing the amount of agent necessary to achieve an effect in an individual as compared a typical agent that is swallowed comprising the steps of:

providing a chewing gum consisting of ingredients selected from the group consisting of elastomers, resins, fats, oils, softeners, fillers, waxes, colorants, antioxidants, plasticizers, texturizers, emulsifiers, whiteners, acidulants, bulking agents, essential oils, sweeteners, flavors, and at least one agent that is typically swallowed by an individual to achieve a specific effect, the ingredients and agent being uniformly distributed throughout the chewing gum, the chewing gum including less than the typical amount of agent that is swallowed by the individual to achieve the effect;

chewing the chewing gum and thereby causing the agent to be released into the salvia of the individual; and

continuing to chew the chewing gum forcing the agent through an oral mucosa contained in a buccal cavity of the individual.

19. (Amended) A method of delivering a medicament comprising the steps of:

providing a chewing gum consisting of ingredients selected from the group consisting of elastomers, resins, fats, oils, softeners, fillers, waxes, colorants, antioxidants, plasticizers, texturizers, emulsifiers, whiteners, acidulants, bulking agents, essential oils, sweeteners, flavors, and at least one medicament, the ingredients and medicament being uniformly distributed throughout the chewing gum; and

chewing the chewing gum for at least 2 minutes in a buccal cavity of an individual chewing the chewing gum.